comfortable, considering the requirements for essential imports, short-term liabilities including debt service payments, and other unforeseen contingencies. The Government and the Reserve Bank of India monitor closely the developments in the balance of payments and take such measures, as are considered necessary, from time to time, to increase exports, invisible receipts, including remittances and to enhance inflows of capital, particularly foreign direct investments, so as to help maintain adequate level of foreign exchange reserves.

Revision of advances under National Savings

89. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the existing rate of percentage of advances admissible to the State Governments from the deposits under National Savings;

(b) whether Government propose to revise the existing percentage of advance facility from the National Savings to cent per cent;

(c) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(d) the total collection of National Savings from Kerala during the current year; and

(e) the amount of advance outstanding to the State from the National Savings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) At present 80 per cent of the net small savings' collections is transferred to State/U.T. (with legislature) Governments as investment in their special securities.

(b) and (c) An Expert Committee has, *inter-alia,* recommended the transfer of entire net proceeds under small savings to State Governments. The Committee's recommendation will provide an input to Government's approach on the subject.

(d) Net small savings' collections in post offices in Kerala

during the current financial year (upto December-2001) was Rs. 357.04 crore.

(e) An amount of Rs. 41.18 crore is due for release to the State Government of Kerala in March, 2002.

Re-Orientation programmes for loss making Scheduled Banks

90. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Nationalised or Scheduled Banks are makings losses;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to introduce any re-orientation programme to improve their operations;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether there are any proposal to amalgamate the banks which are running in loss;

(f) whether any new Scheduled banks have been registered during the current year;

(g) if so, the details thereof;

(h) whether profits of any Nationalised or Scheduled Banks are declining; and

(i) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) During the year ended 31st March, 2001, 2 nationalized banks, 3 private sector banks, 11 foreign banks, 1 scheduled state co-operative bank and 24 regional rural banks incurred losses.

(c) and (d) The public sector banks are taking several steps to improve their performance and increase their profitability which include rationalizing their branch network, abolition of zonal officers, reduction of NPAs, lowering their cost of deposits, increasing